

ALBANY.

THE POLICE BILL, SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

THE BILL DENOUNCED AS A TRICK OF A FRACTION TO SECURE PARTISAN SUCCESS NEXT FALL.

PASSAGE OF THE BILL BY A VOTE OF 70 TO 48.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, April 30.—The Assembly met at 9 o'clock this morning and immediately proceeded to the consideration of the Police and Park bill, as agreed upon last evening. The opposition of the Democrats to the measure appeared to have cooled down materially since yesterday, and the discussion, which was opened by Mr. Weed (Dem.), was conducted in a much more temperate vein. Mr. Weed regretted that the Republicans on the floor should feel compelled under pressure to support such a measure as this. Last year the Assembly Chamber resounded with their eloquence in favor of the principle in giving to the Board of Aldermen the power of confirmation of the Mayor's appointments. Now, because a faction in New-York seeks to gain power by this bill, they were ready to turn their backs on all they said a year ago. He hoped there would be enough independent Republicans on the floor to defeat the bill and refuse to lie down under the lash—he would not say party lash, for the fact that was urging the passage of this bill did not have the confidence of their party in the State. The bill was not founded on any principle, but was simply intended to serve a temporary party purpose. Mr. Washner (Dem.) was the next speaker. He called the attention of Republicans to the fact that by voting for the bill they placed themselves in the position of legislating for the benefit of a clique of politicians who desired to get control of the ballot-box for the next Fall election. The measure was utterly indefensible on any honest ground whatever. Mr. Beebe (Dem.) argued that if the bill passed the Democrats would have no representation in the Police Board of the city, and no means of protecting their party against frauds upon the ballot. It was such legislation as this that brought disgrace upon the Democratic party of the State and hastened their overthrow, and it would have the same effect upon the Republican party.

Mr. Alvord (Independent) said he did not oppose this bill from any partisan feeling, but in his opinion all legislation that was not founded on principle would sooner or later come back on the heads of those who advocated it; it was injurious to the country. He disliked to see the great party that had done the country such service during the last twelve years stoop to such legislation as this, which could only tend to their ruin. He called upon the Republicans on the floor not to obey the dictation of leaders who were plotting them to destruction.

Mr. Blumenthal (Dem.) hoped the dominant party would permit the New-York Charter of 1873 to be fairly tested and not interfere with their work of last year. He thought it was the best charter on the whole that the city ever had, and he would tell the Republicans that if they hoped to find in the Mayor an instrument to carry out their schemes they would be mistaken.

Col. Spencer (Rep.) said that he believed members should not on investigation that this bill was independent of any partisan considerations and was in the interest of good government. The Democratic party had made this bill a necessity. Why did the Aldermen refuse to confirm a good and unexceptionable man like Mr. Howland for Police Commissioner? They were determined that the vacancy should never be filled except in the interest of the Tammany Democracy of the city. He believed that the Mayor under this bill would fill the place with a good man, and that the people will have an honest election next Fall. No wrong was done by it to any party, or to any man. It was simply intended to secure a pure election.

The bill was then put upon its passage, the discussion having occupied but little over half an hour, and several members availed themselves of the opportunity to make brief speeches under a request to be excused from voting.

Among others, Mr. Lincoln (Rep.) said a few words to the effect that he believed that there could be no such thing as a party without political measures, political action, and sometimes what might be called political legislation. So far as the present Legislature is concerned, all would agree with him that it had been more free from party legislation than any Legislature for the last 15 years. He believed this measure to be in the interest of good government and the purity of the ballot, and so believing he gave it his cordial support.

The announcement of the vote showed 70 in favor of the bill to 48 against it, and it was declared passed. All the Democrats present, together with one Republican, Mr. C. B. Wood, voted "No."

The bill was signed by the Governor within two hours after its passage. The Governor sent a message to Mayor Havemeyer, saying that the bill was in accordance with the views expressed by him (the Governor) in his first annual message, and with which he (Havemeyer) said at the time that he fully concurred.

The closing hours of the session—UNUSUAL ORDER AND DECORUM OBSERVED IN BOTH HOUSES—CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, April 30.—After passing the Police and Park bill, the Assembly took up the third reading of the bill, and in the course of a couple of hours had disposed of nearly all on the desk, and was compelled to wait for the action of the Senate. Meantime, resolutions of thanks to Speaker Husted were offered by Mr. Weed, and warm eulogies of his conduct as presiding officer were pronounced by Messrs. Weed, Beebe, Alvord, and others. Unlike most speeches of this kind, they were earnest, sincere, and without any taint of hypocrisy; for it is admitted by every member of the Assembly of both parties that Mr. Husted had been the best Speaker in all respects that the House has had for many years. Mr. Alvord, who is probably the best parliamentarian in the State, said, in his remarks upon the resolution, that Mr. Husted had proved himself the peer of any and the superior of most of his predecessors in the Speaker's chair.

Before noon the Senate sent down a resolution asking for an extension of the hour of adjournment previously agreed upon from 12 m. to 3 p. m. The Assembly concurred, and subsequently at the request of the same body the time was still further extended to 3:30 p. m.

The closing hours of the session, in both Houses were marked by more order and decorum than have been witnessed here in many years, which is probably attributable to the final adjournment taking place in the daytime instead of the night.

Speaker Husted's farewell speech was received with a good deal of feeling by the House, and when he gave for the last time there was the most enthusiastic applause, followed by three cheers for the retiring Speaker.

Nine hundred and seventy-three bills were ordered to a third reading during the present session, of which over 900 were passed. There were 140 Assembly bills left unconsidered in Committee of the Whole at the adjournment, and fourteen Senate bills. Twenty-three Assembly bills were ordered to a third reading, but were not passed.

Over two-thirds of the members of the Legislature left for home in the evening train, and the hotels have a deserted appearance.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

The Senate went into Executive session at 2:40 this afternoon, and confirmed the following nominations made by the Governor:

Managers of the Buffalo Insane Asylum—Wm. Gould, Lorenzo Morris, Augustus Frank, George Howard, and Daniel C. Beard.

On motion of Mr. ROBERTSON, Committee on Docks and Harbors, to report the report of the Hudson River to be made.

Mr. ROBERTSON, from the Judiciary Committee, reported adversely to the bill to incorporate the New-York Club; agreed to. Also adversely to the bill relative to the New-York and Brooklyn United District Court; agreed to. Also adversely to the bill for the East Side Butchers' Association; agreed to.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON THE SUPPLY BILL.

Mr. Wood, from the Committee of Conference, reported the Supply bill. He stated that the Committee had come to an understanding on every item formerly in dispute between the two Houses.

Mr. JOHNSON moved that the report of the Committee of Conference be agreed to without reading it. Carried.

The clause referring to public buildings provides that the Governor shall appoint two Commissioners to have entire control of the building of the present Capitol, and upon Buffalo, Elmira, Poughkeepsie, and Middletown, and that the work shall be done by contract. With reference to the new Capitol, it provides that the present Superintendent shall be removed in 30 days, and a new one appointed by the Commissioners, subject to the approval of the Governor, and that he shall have entire control of the building of the new Capitol. The provisions are merely named, and are short of all responsibility, and \$100,000 is appropriated to continue the work on the building.

Mr. DICKINSON asked if the Capitol investigation was closed.

Mr. Wood replied "No," that there was still much to be done, the information called for by the Senate Committee has not been furnished.

The appropriation to the Buffalo Asylum is reduced from \$100,000 to \$150,000. Sixteen thousand dollars were put in the bill for the Sing Sing Valley House. All extra compensation items were stricken out of the bill.

Adverse reports upon the amendments to the Cotton and Produce Exchange Companies' charters, and upon the bill defining the duties of Justices of the Peace in Buffalo, were agreed to.

Mr. WOOD introduced a bill to define the acts heretofore passed relative to the consolidation of the Government of the City and County of New-York, which was read a third time and passed.

THE EASTMAN QUICK TRANSIT BILL KILLED.

Mr. REEDER, from the Railroad Committee, gave the friends of the Eastman Railroad bill an account of the proceedings yesterday, and they had hoped to have time to complete it. Several distinct amendments were presented by the friends of the bill, while the opponents offered very many more. Now the Railroad Committee have no time to consider these different amendments, and he deemed it just to himself and others of the Committee that the explanation be made.

Mr. REEDER moved that the Committee on Railroads be discharged from the further consideration of the bill.

Mr. WOOD moved that the bill be ordered to a third reading, and that it be committed to the Committee on Cities, with instructions to amend.

Messrs. ALLEN and BEND opposed the motion, and were discharged from the further consideration of the bill.

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WASHINGTON.

THE DISTRICT INVESTIGATION.

PURSUIT OF AN IMPORTANT WITNESS—GOV. SHEPHERD TESTIFIES AS TO HIS CONNECTION WITH THE DE GOLYER CONTRACT—HIS PARTNER'S RELATIONS WITH A CONTRACT JOBBER—STRONG ASSERTATIONS OF HIS OWN INNOCENCE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, April 30.—The Committee of Inquiry into District Affairs have been seeking for several weeks to secure the attendance as a witness of Col. A. B. Kirtland, the man into whose hands \$72,000 of the \$97,000 paid by De Golyer and McClellan for a contract to lay wood pavements was traced. He has been heard of in New-York and Detroit, and the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate has had detectives on the watch for him both here and in other cities, and all to no avail. Finally, it was heard that Kirtland was in Washington, and Mr. Harrington, one of Gov. Shepherd's counsel, told Senator Allison, the Chairman of the Committee, that Geo. Alfred Townsend had seen him here. The Sergeant-at-Arms at once sent an assistant after him; but, after making inquiries, the deputy returned and reported that it was all a mistake, the man who had been seen was not Kirtland, but some one who looked very much like him. Now it turns out that Kirtland was in Washington all the time, and that W. G. Moore, business partner of Gov. Shepherd, arranged an interview between him and Mr. Wattingly, one of Gov. Shepherd's counsel, and that the interview took place at the Elbert House.

The most startling part of to-day's testimony, which is fully given in the general press reports, is the discovery that Mr. Moore, Gov. Shepherd's partner, entered into an agreement to receive a portion of the corruption fund. Gov. Shepherd in his testimony denied that he ever suspected any such arrangement or that he ever profited by it, and said that as soon as he learned the fact he caused their partnership to be dissolved; and the manner in which he gave his evidence and the general tone of the correspondence which he produced leave the impression upon an impartial mind that he told the truth. If he is innocent in this transaction as he thus far appears to be, he is placed in a very unfortunate position by the indiscreet action of his partner. Mr. Moore's connection with this corrupt business surprises everybody who knows him. He is a man of very wide acquaintance, and has been universally trusted and respected. Before becoming a member of Shepherd's firm, he served in the army, was on duty at the War Department and was private secretary to Secretary Cameron, Secretary Stanton and President Johnson. It is understood that he never actually received the money, but the agreement made by which he was to receive about \$30,000, was, of course, as criminal as the actual receipt of the money. The Committee is still in pursuit of Kirtland whose testimony, it is reported, will be damaging to two other persons besides Mr. Moore.

SEMI-OFFICIAL DETAILS OF THE TESTIMONY.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, April 30.—In the District of Columbia Investigating Committee this morning Gov. Shepherd was on the stand, and submitted six letters bearing on the De Golyer & McClellan contract. It appeared from his evidence that he was the partner of Gov. Shepherd, unknown to him interested himself in procuring the contract, and was offered a portion of the proceeds of the notes given by Cliftenden and Kirtland. The Governor, upon learning the fact, at once dissolved his business relations with Moore, which he announced in the morning papers.

Gov. Shepherd said the first he had heard of the De Golyer and McClellan contract was one day in passing the First National Bank. Mr. Huntington called him and said, "What are you doing about contracts now?" He (the witness) said, "We are going through our annual examination before Congress, and are doing nothing."

Witness replied, "Tell him to put in his bid and take his chance." Subsequently Gov. Cooke came to witness and said the Hon. C. B. Parsons had a friend who represented a Chicago firm who wanted a contract. Witness told the Governor that the friend could put in a bid, but the award would be decided upon the merits of the pavement. Subsequently, after Mr. Parsons had made an argument before the Board of Public Works, regarding the De Golyer and McClellan pavement No. 2, Gen. Garfield spoke to witness, and said he was employed by Mr. Parsons to represent his (Parsons's) interest in the De Golyer contract. One of the arguments made by Gen. Garfield was that the Board of Public Works should give the contract to the lowest bidder, and that the award should be made by the Board of Public Works. Subsequently, witness ascertained that De Golyer and McClellan were not men of the means that had been represented to the Board, and that the work was not being done satisfactorily. It was then stopped.

In 1873, witness received the first intimation that money had been paid to secure the contract by a letter written from Racine, Wis., by ex-Senator Doan to Gov. Cooke. Aug. 16, 1873, which first recited that De Golyer and McClellan had been stopped in their operations in Washington, and then proceeded to say:

"But there is an inside view of this matter, and which is by far the most important. De Golyer and McClellan were not men of the means that had been represented to the Board, and that the work was not being done satisfactorily. It was then stopped.

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